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Governor Susana Martinez Announces Over 120 New Jobs in Mesilla Park

Mesilla Park, NM - Today, Governor Susana Martinez announced that New Mexico Greenhouse Holdings will create more than 120 new jobs over the next few years in Mesilla Park. The company will grow agricultural products and distribute them to major national retailers throughout the United States. These new jobs will include botanists, geneticists, and greenhouse staff.

"As New Mexico continues to grow as a hub for commerce and trade, we're happy to welcome our latest partners in diversifying our economy," said Governor Martinez. "The Las Cruces area is well-positioned to help companies move their products to more markets, and we're confident New Mexico Greenhouse Holdings will be able to take full advantage of our position as an ideal distribution hub."

New Mexico Greenhouse Holdings is an affiliate of Colorado Financial Holdings, which grows premium agricultural products for national retailers with a focus on bedding plants for big box stores. New Mexico Greenhouse Holdings will invest \$6 million to renovate an 820,000 square-foot greenhouse facility with state-of-the-art water purification and recycling systems. The facility also includes 6,500 square feet of recently constructed office space and more than 25,000 square feet of warehouse distribution space, served by 10 loading docks.

"Logistics, distribution and warehousing as well as agriculture are part of Governor Martinez's strategy to grow the private sector economic base investments, and provide good paying-jobs in New Mexico," said Economic Development Department Secretary Jon Barela. "We welcome CHF and New Mexico Greenhouse to our state."

New Mexico will provide NMGH with \$250,000 in Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) funds toward the renovation. LEDA serves as New Mexico's closing fund, a valuable tool for recruiting new businesses to the state and helping those that are here grow and thrive. During this summer's special legislative session, Governor Martinez fought to grow the closing fund to \$50 million, up from nearly zero when she took office. Growing the closing fund is a key component of the Governor's initiatives to make New Mexico more business friendly and competitive with surrounding states.

"We're thankful for this partnership with Governor Martinez and the Economic Development Department to provide infrastructure improvements that allow us to grow high-quality produce and other products closer to urban populations, helping growers bring more healthy and fresh products to market with lower distribution costs," said Mark Wong, founding partner of Colorado Financial Holdings. "CFH firmly believes that the future of agriculture lies in bringing production closer to the customer."

New Mexico continues to see encouraging economic news lately. New Mexico just had its 36th consecutive month of year-over-year job growth. And in CNBC's Top States for Business rankings released earlier this summer, New Mexico jumped from 37th to 24th, an increase of 13 spots, tied for biggest jump in the nation. New Mexico also leads the nation in export-related job growth, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, and three of its metro areas are ranked in the top five for total export growth, with the Las Cruces area leading the way at No. 1.

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